

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 17, and 24-28 are presently pending in this case. Claims 1-6, 17, 24, and 25 are amended, Claims 7-16 and 18-23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 26-28 are added by the present amendment. As amended Claims 1-6, 17, 24, and 25 and new Claims 26-28 are supported by the pending claims, no new matter is added.

As the present amendment cancels at least as many finally rejected claims as newly presented claims, it is respectfully submitted that this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 be entered and considered.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Cheon (U.S. Patent No. 5,148,127). However, Claims 3, 4, and 17 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten and independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3, 4, and 17.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 24, and 25 as anticipated by Cheon, Claims 1, 6, 24, and 25 are amended to include the subject matter of Claim 3, which was indicated as including allowable subject matter. Claim 2 is amended to include the subject matter of Claim 4, which was indicated as including allowable subject matter. Claim 3, which was indicated as including allowable subject matter, is amended to include the subject matter of Claim 2. Claim 4, which was indicated as including allowable subject matter, is amended to include the subject matter of Claim 1. Claim 17, which was indicated as including allowable subject matter, is amended to include the subject matter of Claim 1. New

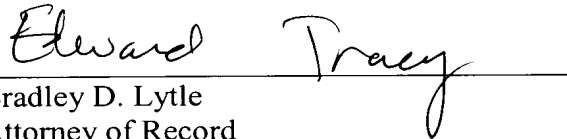
Claim 26 includes the subject matter of Claims 4 and 6. New Claim 27 includes the subject matter of Claims 4 and 24. New Claim 28 includes the subject matter of Claims 4 and 25. Accordingly, amended Claims 1-4, 6, 17, and 24-28 (and Claim 5 dependent therefrom) are believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bradley D. Lytle", written over a horizontal line.

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